

W I T H N E L L   U R B A N   D I S T R I C T   C O U N C I L

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WITHNELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Withnell Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Annual Report

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

The population of the District and mid-year 1969 was 3,070 which is 70 more than the figure for the previous year. The number of live births assigned to the District for 1969 was 63 which is 2 fewer than in the previous year and gives a crude birth rate of 20.5 (adjusted 25.2) per 1,000 population. These rates again compare very favourably with the rates for England and Wales and the County of Lancaster which were respectively 16.3 and 16.9 (adjusted 17.2). The ratio of the local adjusted birth rate to the national rate was 1.55.

The number of deaths assignable to the District was 43 which is 9 fewer than in the previous year. The crude death rate for the District was therefore 14.0 (adjusted 11.2). The death rates for England and Wales and Lancashire were 11.9 and 12.4 (adjusted 13.4) respectively. The ratio of the local adjusted death rate to the national rate was .94.

The Registrar General provides a table giving the causes of death in age groups, and this table is reproduced in the Report. It will be seen from the table that 21 of the 43 deaths occurred in persons 75 years of age or over. A further 9 were between 65 and 74 years of age. These two groups together accounted for 70% of the total deaths. Comparing the causes of death with those in the previous year it is found that deaths from heart disease numbered 14 which is 1 more and of these 11 were due to ischaemic (coronary) heart disease which is 1 fewer than in 1968. Malignant diseases accounted for 3 deaths as compared with 9, lung cancer being responsible for only 1 as against 2 in the previous year. Cerebrovascular disease (strokes) and other diseases of the emphysema together accounted for 5 deaths which is the same as in 1968. There were no deaths recorded from tuberculosis during the year. One death from this cause occurred in the previous year. The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was four compared with two in 1968. These four infants died in hospital within



one week of birth. There were no still births during the past year whereas there was one in the previous year. Again it is pleasing to note that there were no deaths arising from childbirth.

Only two notifications of infectious disease were received during the year - these were both of measles. No notifications were received during the previous year.

Reference was made in my last report to the introduction of the scheme of vaccination against measles and parents of children who had not had measles were urged to take advantage of this. Unfortunately, supplies of the vaccine became short and the scheme did not get going properly. Supplies have recently improved, however, and it is hoped that parents will now have their children protected against measles so that this disease may be eradicated as has been practically so in several other infectious diseases. Vaccination against measles involves only one injection and is available from general medical practitioners, welfare centres and school clinics. At the same time it must be stressed that vaccination against smallpox, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus and whooping cough are still as vitally important as ever.

During last year an officer of the County Medical Officer's staff commenced what is known as a periodic survey of the environmental health services of the District. The survey is now almost completed and a report will be submitted in due course.

The Council are well aware of the need for improvement in regard to sewage disposal arrangements and in fact a firm of Consultant Engineers has been engaged with a view to the construction of new sewage works to serve the District. The water supply also has been a cause of concern for many years regarding the need for a modern treatment plant, although discussions are being held with the Preston & District Water Board with a view to the amalgamation of the water undertakings.

A housing survey is being carried out but other aspects of the environment affecting health are also requiring attention and there is still a need for more routine inspections with more attention to food hygiene.



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The difficulties in achieving these worthy objectives with a limited staff and financial resources are fully appreciated.

In conclusion, I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence in me.

Yours obedient servant,

J. WALKER

Medical Officer of Health.





# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the District is 4,190 acres. The population figure at the 1961 Census was 2,849. For 1969 the Registrar General calculated the population as 3,070. The Rateable Value was £92,477 and a penny rate produced £340.

The Chief industries are Quarrying, Saw Mills and Cotton Mills, brick-making, agriculture and poultry keeping. There has been no change in social conditions.

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	31	30	61
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			
Crude	20.5		
Adjusted	25.2	(England & Wales 16.3)	
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total Live Births)	3	(England & Wales 8)	
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u>			
Legitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live & Still Births	NIL	(England & Wales 13)	
Total Live & Still Births			63
<u>INFANT DEATHS</u>			
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	NIL	NIL	NIL
INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	63	(England & Wales 18)	
NEO NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 4 weeks of age) PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	63	(England & Wales 12)	
EARLY NEO NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under 1 week of age) PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	63	(England & Wales 10)	
PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE (still births & deaths under 1 week of age) PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS	63	(England & Wales 23)	
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS</u> (including abortion)	NIL		
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE & STILL BIRTHS	NIL	(England & Wales 0.19)	



<u>DEATHS:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
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<u>ALL CAUSES</u>	20	23	43
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Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population. (Crude 14.0 Adjusted 11.2)  
(England & Wales 11.9)

<u>RESPIRATORY T.B.</u>	<u>NIL</u>	NIL	NIL
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Rate per 1,000 estimated population NIL (England & Wales 0.022)

<u>MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS</u>	2	1	3
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Rate per 1,000 estimated population 1 (England & Wales 2.35)



COMPARATIVE TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CRUDE RATE

	Live Births		Deaths all causes		Still-Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant total under 1 yr.		Mortality Neo-Natal under 4 weeks	
YEAR	No Registered	Rate per 1,000 population	No Registered	Rate per 1,000 population	No Registered	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No Registered	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No Registered	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No Registered	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
1969	63	20.5	43	14.0	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	4	63	4	63
1968	65	21.7	52	17.3	1	15	NIL	NIL	2	31	1	15
1967	44	15.2	40	13.8	1	22	NIL	NIL	3	68	3	68
1966	58	21.0	50	18.1	2	33.3	NIL	NIL	2	34.5	1	17.2
1965	36	12.9	49	17.6	1	27.0	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
1964	45	16.1	28	10.0	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

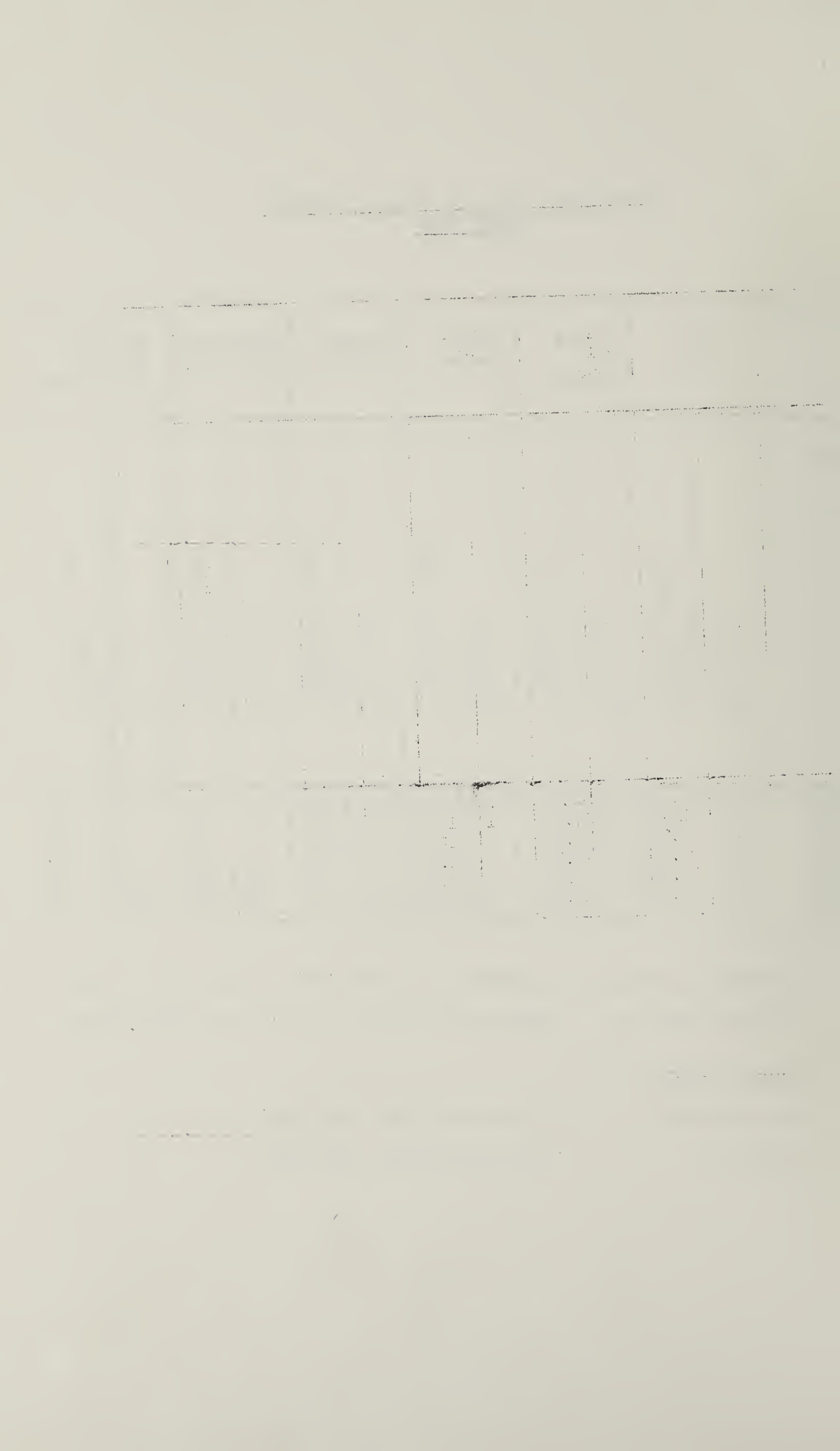
ADJUSTED Live Birth Rate (comparability factor 1.23) 25.2 per 1,000 est.pop.

ADJUSTED Death Rate (comparability factor 0.80) 11.2 per 1,000 est.pop.

ENGLAND & WALES.

Live Birth Rate 16.3 per 1,000 home population.

Death Rate 11.9 per 1,000 home population.



CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1969

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	Sex	Total All Ages	Birth- 45 Yrs.	45 Years	55 Years	65 Years	75 years and over.
B19(3) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, STOMACH	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
B19(6) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, BRONCHUS	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
B19(8) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, UTERUS	F	1	-	-	-	1	-
B46(3) MENTAL DISORDERS	M F	- 1	- -	- -	- 1	- -	- -
B46(4) OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM, ETC	M F	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -
B28 ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	M F	6 5	- -	- -	3 -	2 3	1 2
B29 OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- 1
B30 CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	M F	1 5	- -	- -	- 1	1 -	- 4
B46(5) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	M F	2 4	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 4
B32 PNEUMONIA	M F	2 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 -
B33(1) BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	M F	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 2
B34 PEPTIC ULCER	M F	1 -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -
B42 CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	M F	1 -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -
B43 BIRTH INJURY, DIFFICULT LABOUR, ETC.	M F	- 1	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -
B44 OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY	M F	1 2	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -
BE47 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	M F	1 -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -
BE48 ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	M F	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M F	20 23	3 3	2 -	3 2	5 4	7 14





GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. J. Walker, M.B., C.H.B., L.D.S., D.P.H., D.P.D.

Other Public Appointments

M.O.H.	Chorley Borough
M.O.H.	Leyland U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Longridge U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Preston R.D.C.
M.O.H.	Chorley R.D.C.
M.O.H.	Adlington U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Fulwood U.D.C.
M.O.H.	Walton-le-Dale U.D.C.

Divisional Medical Officer to the Health Division No. 4  
Lancashire County Council.

HEALTH INSPECTOR. R. Readfern, M.A.P.H.I.  
Joint Appointment as Public Health Inspector & Surveyor.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

The Public Health Laboratory Preston, is available for the examination of specimens for the diagnosis of cases of infectious diseases and for pathological specimens for ordinary disease.  
Similar use of this laboratory is made for the bacteriological examination of samples of milk, water and ice-cream etc.

CHEST CLINIC. The Chest Clinic is at Chorley & District Hospital.  
This clinic is a consultant Clinic for all chest conditions.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC. Held at Preston Royal Infirmary, Blackburn Royal Infirmary, and the Diagnostic Clinic, Civic Centre, Bolton, and the Wigan Royal Infirmary.

HOSPITAL FACILITIES.  
Chorley and District Hospital  
Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley  
Preston Royal Infirmary  
Blackburn Royal Infirmary  
Sharoe Green Hospital, Preston.  
Isolation Hospital, Deepdale, Preston.  
Heath Charnock Hospital.  
All administered by the appropriate Hospital Management Committee under the Manchester Regional Board.



## COUNTY HEALTH & WELFARE SERVICES

These services are administered by the Lancashire County Council.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The County Ambulance Service is radio-controlled and all non-urgent requests for the service are made to Radio Control Headquarters. (Tel. Broughton 2678). The nearest ambulance station is in Preston Street, Chorley.

### MIDWIFERY AND NURSING IN THE HOME.

The District Nursing Midwifery Sister (Mrs. M. Gibson) serving the area resides in Samlesbury (Tel. Samlesbury 667).

### TREATMENT CLINIC FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN.

The 'Minor Ailment' clinic is held at the School Clinic, Collison Avenue, Chorley. Ancillary School Clinics (Orthopaedic, Dental, and Eye etc.) are also held and attended by Practitioners of Specialist Status. Attendance by appointment via School Medical Staff.

### Ante Natal Clinics and Post Natal Clinics.

These Clinics are held on Thursdays at Collison Avenue, Chorley. They are attended by a Consultant obstetrician.

### Maternity Beds.

Normal accommodation is available at Chorley District Hospital and Eaves Lane Hospital, Chorley. Other Hospitals are also available. The new Maternity Hospital and Ante-Natal Department at Chorley were nearing completion at the end of the year and will replace the arrangements mentioned above in due course.

### Child Welfare.

A child welfare clinic is held fortnightly (Tuesday 2-4 p.m.) at the Methodist Hall, School Lane, Brinscall and is attended by a Medical Officer of the Lancashire County Council, as well as the County Health Visitor. Ministry of Health Welfare Foods and other proprietary baby foods may be obtained from this clinic.

### Health Visitors.

The County's Health Visitor for the area is Mrs. J. Smith who is available to give advice on all the County Health and Welfare Services. She is based at the School Clinic, Collison Avenue, Chorley Tel. 2709).

### Home Helps.

A Home Help Service in cases of sickness, Maternity and Old Age is available in the area. Application for Home Helps should be made to The Divisional Medical Officer, Joint Divisional Offices, East Cliff, Preston, PR1 3JQ (Telephone: Preston 54868 Ext. 6411/6412).

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was.

<u>Types of Tuberculosis</u>	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Respiratory	4	4	7	8	8	7	15
Non Respiratory	1	1	1	1	1	1	NIL





## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Persons suffering from infectious disease other than smallpox are normally admitted to Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. Cases of Smallpox - there were none - would be admitted to Ainsworth Hospital, Bury.

Two cases of infectious disease were notified during the year 1969 - both measles. No cases of measles were notified in the previous year.

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968 consolidated with amendments all previous Regulations relating to notification and prevention of infectious disease except the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

The Health Services and Public Health Act 1968 covered various aspects of notification and prevention of infectious disease and food poisoning. The main amendments are - Tetanus and Yellow Fever were made notifiable for the first time in the Country as well as Leptospirosis which was previously notifiable only in certain areas. Infective jaundice was also made notifiable during the year 1968.

Acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia, acute rheumatism, erysipelas and membranous croup ceased to be notifiable.

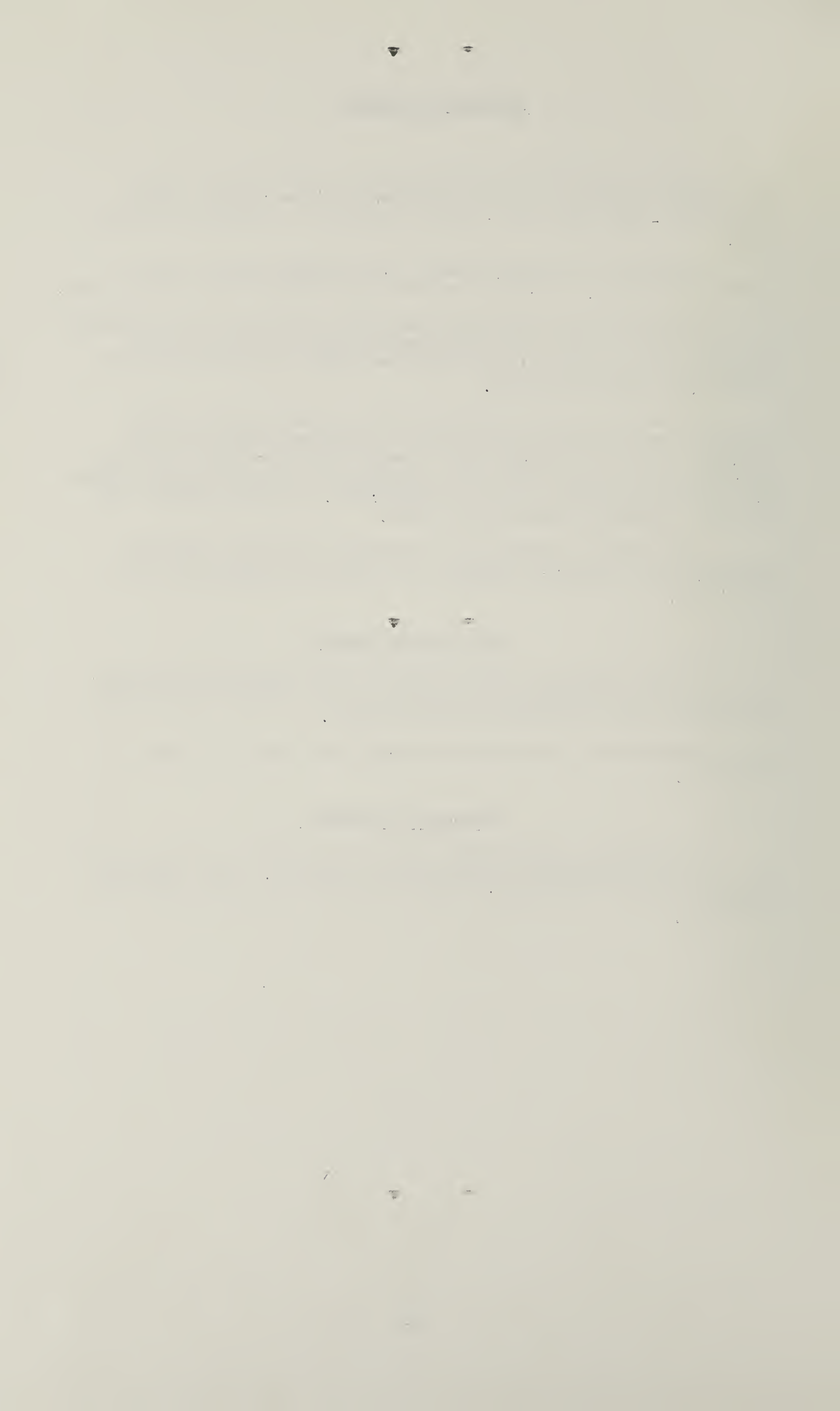
### Typhoid Fever Contacts

A family residing in Abbey Village on their return from Australia, travelled on a ship on which it was subsequently discovered that a number of passengers were suffering from Typhoid Fever.

Investigations were made and the family was found to be clear of infection.

### Outbreak of Influenza

The influenza outbreak which affected the district at the end of the year caused some disruption of the Council's services. At one particular period over half of the Council's manual staff were absent from work due to influenza.





## Drainage & Sewerage.

There are three sewage disposal works situated at Brinscall, Withnell Fold and Abbey Village respectively. Conditions at all three works are far from satisfactory and the Council's Consultant Engineer is still in the process of preparing a comprehensive scheme of Sewage Disposal for the whole district.

## Closet Accommodation at the end of 1969.

Privy Middens	Nil
Pail Closets	27
Dry Ashpits	Nil
Moveable Ashbins	1133
Waste Water Closets	16
Fresh Water Closets	1233
Houses not on Water	
Carriage System	27

## Public Cleansing.

Up to the end of July this was carried out by direct labour using a side loading Karrier Bantam, with a crew of driver and three loaders.

In early August, the Council took delivery of a new Shelvoke & Drewry Compression type vehicle which due to additional capacity gave a more efficient collection rate and enabled the crew to be reduced to a driver and two loaders. With the exception of a few outlying farms refuse was collected weekly and disposed of by tipping at Abbey Village. In the past, conditions at the tip have not been at all satisfactory, although some effort has been made in recent months to bring the tip under reasonable control.

## Sanitary Inspection.

The approximate number of inspections for nuisances and defects during the year was 214 and this led to 35 nuisances or defects being discovered. 23 informal notices were served and no legal proceedings were instituted.

## PEST CONTROL

No infestations of insects were found, although the old houses of all the new tenants of Council houses were inspected. Tenants who are apt to become lethargic are visited regularly and encouraged to keep their houses clean and tidy.

One of the sewerage attendants acts part-time as pest control operative. His work is summarised as follows.

	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
No of properties in district	1309	47
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	39	-
No. infested by Rats	33	-
Mice	6	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	-	-
No. infested by Rats	-	-
Mice	-	-

A sewer treatment was carried out during the year. Although a heavy infestation was not found, the treatment was continued at the necessary inspection points until no further takes were recorded.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Slaughterhouse Facilities.

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the district.

### Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

The number of food premises by type of business in the district at the end of 1968 was as follows:-

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Greengrocers and provision dealers	12
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish etc.)	2
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked meats etc)	3
Bakers and/or confectioners	3
Fried Fish Shops	2
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals etc.	4
Licensed premises, restaurants, cafes etc.	12

### Ice Cream.

All ice cream sold is pre-packed and eight shops are registered for the sale of this commodity. No samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

### Milk Supply.

There are 6 producers-retailers with premises in the District and 3 retailers with premises outside the District retailing milk within the District. In addition there are 6 shops licensed to sell sterilised milk. The licensing of milk retailers is the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council and not the Local Authority.

### Brucellosis.

99 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and 5 of these were Ring Test positive for brucellosis. The infected animals were removed from the herd. Milk infected with brucella organisms can give rise to the disease known as undulant fever in man. Pasteurisation of such milk renders it safe for consumption.





### Water Supply.

The supply is obtained for the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Undertaking from Withnell Reservoir (upland surface water) and from a borehole on Railway Road, Withnell.

1096 Dwelling houses and an estimated population of approximately 3,100 persons are supplied with this water.

23 Bacteriological examinations of water were carried out during the year all of which were satisfactory.

The high acidity of the water obtained from Liverpool Corporation gives rise to plumbo solvency of quite a high degree and adjustment of the Ph level of the water which is approximately 6, to approximately 7.2 has removed this problem.

The water from the borehole on Railway Road is pumped direct to mains as this water is slightly alkaline and contains few suspended solids.

The present arrangements for the treatment of water going into supply cannot be regarded as satisfactory and early consideration should be given to a scheme of improvement.

Notices were served on the land owner and a contractor who was found to be discharging semi-liquid industrial waste on land at Stanworth.

Had the dumping continued there was considerable danger of the private water supply to the Finnington area being contaminated.

The same contractor who commenced to occupy premises at Finnington was also stopped from tipping various types of industrial and chemical waste materials on land adjacent to the former Finnington Hatcheries.

### Derelict Building

The semi-derelict building, formerly the Regal Cinema, has been a cause of concern in recent years. Steps have been taken to have the building demolished and a notice has been served under S.27, Public Health Act 1961 requiring the owner either to carry out works of renovation or demolition. It is anticipated that some material action will be taken early in the coming year.



## SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the district at the end of 1967 was 4.

### Sanitary Conditions of schools at the end of the Year:-

(a)	Number of schools with unsatisfactory yard surface	NONE
(b)	Sanitary accommodation. Number of schools with	
(1)	Fresh water closets 4	(4) Pail Closets only NIL
(2)	Waste water closet only NIL	(5) Privy Closets NIL
(3)	Trough closets NIL	(6) Other types NIL
(c)	Drainage - No. of schools with drainage to:-	
(1)	Public Sewer 4	(2) Private Treatment Wks NIL
(d)	Refuse Disposal - No. of schools with:-	
(1)	Dustbins 4	(2) Dry Ashpits NIL
(e)	Water Supply - No. of schools with:-	
(1)	Public Mains 4	(2) Private Supply NIL
	No of private supplies (e) (2) considered unsatisfactory	NIL
(f)	No of schools where facilities are considered unsatisfactory for	
(1)	Washing NIL	(2) Drinking NIL

## School Meals.

Dining facilities and washing facilities are improving gradually in the schools throughout the district.

## HOUSING & HOUSING CONDITIONS.

During the year 23 new houses were built by private enterprise; no new properties were completed by the Council.

No houses were demolished or closed as a result of action by the Council but 11 applications for Standard Grants were approved and in each case this was for improvement to the full standard.

There are still two occupied back-to-back houses, 27 houses with pail closets and 16 houses with the waste water closets in the district.

A housing survey is being carried out in order to determine which properties (if any) require action to be taken under the Housing Acts.

## Swimming Baths & Pool.

The Council own the Brinscall Swimming Pool, which is 75' x 25', 3 slipper baths are available. Separate water closets are provided for each sex. Bathers have to use the spray baths before entering the swimming pool. The water is drawn from the public main, heated by an oil fired boiler, circulated once in 6 hours through 3 pressure sand filters and treated with sodium carbonate and chlorine. Samples are taken twice daily to ensure that the water has been adequately treated.





Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act 1961

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.

Promises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,& 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.....	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	17	17	NIL	NIL
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)...	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	17	17	NIL	NIL

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS WERE found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned at two, three or more "cases")

Number of cases in which defects  
were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.	
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Overcrowding (S.2.)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	NIL	NIL			
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	NIL	NIL			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	NIL	NIL			
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	NIL	NIL			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	NIL	NIL			
(c) Not separate for sexes	NIL	NIL			
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	NIL	NIL			
TOTAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) Part VIII of the Act - Outwork;	NIL.				

